

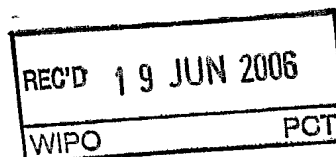
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference 2031932PC/ko		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/FI2005/000119	International filing date (day/month/year) 24-02-2005	Priority date (day/month/year) 25-02-2004	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC See Supplemental Box			
Applicant Saimaan IPR OY et al			

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>10</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>9</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>																									
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand 21-12-2005	Date of completion of this report 01-06-2006
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: Cover sheet

International patent classification (IPC)

H04M 1/247 (2006.01)

H04Q 7/32 (2006.01)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FI2005/000119

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4(a))
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-46 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- pages* 47-51 received by this Authority on 12-05-2006
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- pages 1-4, 6, 10-21 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 5, 7-9 received by this Authority on 21-12-2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application☒ claims Nos. 13, 17

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. _____
relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 13, 17
are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

The result to be achieved from the method as suggested in claim 13 is unclear. It is also unclear how the interaction suggested in claim 17 is supposed to be achieved. The steps stated in claim 17 are neither clearly, nor logically described.

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported
by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):☒ no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. 13, 17☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13ter.1(a) or (b) and 13ter.2.☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Preliminary Examining Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in the Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.☐ See Supplemental Box for further details.

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-12, 14-16, 18-36</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	<u>1-12, 14-16, 18-36</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-12, 14-16, 18-36</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The invention concerns an apparatus and a method for requesting a service from a communications network. The object of the invention is to provide a simplified user interface wherein input is interpreted, and service options are presented to a user, in an efficient way.

Cited Documents:

D1 US20030040850 A1
D2 US6405060 B1
D3 EP0938052 A2

D1 describes an apparatus and a method which provides intelligent adaptive optimization of display navigation of lists presented to a user.

D2 describes a word completion method for speeding up the input, by way of presenting candidate words upon having received two or three letters on the user interface.

D3 refers to an apparatus and a method for accelerating navigation of hypertext pages using compound requests (see for example abstract; paragraph [0025]-[0026]; [0029]-[0032]; [0034]-[0036]; [0041]).

Document D1 is considered to represent the closest prior art. D1 describes an apparatus and a method for optimizing the navigation of lists or other hierarchies of alternatives, to be presented to a user of an electronic device. From one presented list of alternatives, the alternatives of the next list to be presented is chosen automatically. The selection is based upon probabilities which have been estimated by mathematical functions on the basis of several variables, such as usage statistics.

.../...

Supplemental Box

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Continuation of: BOX V(I)

A first selected alternative is correlated to a second list of associated alternatives, which alternatives leads to additional associated alternatives and so on until a wanted service is selected. A first expression from a first list may be more or less correlated to a second expression from a second list, i.e. a strong association between expressions to be presented may be defined if required (see abstract; figure 3,5; paragraph [0010]-[0012]; [0014]; [0034]-[0036]; [0044]-[0047]; [0058]-[0059]; [0103]-[0106]; [0108]; [0112]).

The invention according to claims 1 and 29 differ from what is presented in D1 in that D1 fails to suggest that a verb list, having associated objects, is the initial input list which is being compared to the inputted sequence.

Due to this feature, an interaction which leads to the choosing of a service is introduced by selecting a verb and an associated object as input to a device.

Consequently, having the knowledge of D1, the problem is to provide an alternative way of presenting different options to a user.

Although D1 fails to mention any dedicated verb list or object list, it would be an obvious choice for the person skilled in the art to specify verbs associated to objects on the basis of what is already known from D1. The specific selection of verbs and associated objects fails to specify any characteristic features which express a technical character. Although verbs associated to certain objects as, described in the suggested lists of independent claims 1 and 29 may define an efficient user interface no unexpected technical effect can be defined from this difference in any of these claims, according to the present wording. The claims suggest that associated expressions (verbs/objects) from two separate lists are being linked and stored in a first association list, and that the associations stored in a first list are being linked to associated services via a second list. The described alternative linking of expressions between different lists merely seems to relate to an administrative process wherein associated expressions are being stored and displayed to a user. No technical features as to how the suggested storage procedure or the suggested presentation procedure is achieved can be identified neither in the claims, nor in the description (see box VIII).

.../...

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: BOX V(II)

It is also not clearly defined how the selection of associations is done, and thus no technical solution as to how the association lists are being assembled is described in any of the independent claims 1 or 29. From these claims the association lists and the construction of those lists merely seems to disclose administrative steps.

A resemblance to the described procedure can also be found from the well established input technique for using an incomplete set of letters to predict the intended expression on, for example a user interface of a cellular phone. One example is described in D2, column 6, line 21 - column 7, line 9. In this document an entered combination of letters is associated with a number of suggested combinations of letters. This procedure is repeated until an official word has been entered. If this word also is interpreted as a command, a service which may be triggered by entering the specified work may be initiated.

It is our opinion that the general inventive concept which can be identified in independent claims 1 and 29 also can be achieved by a person skilled in the art by using the knowledge which is retrievable from D1. The use of a verb or, alternatively another expression, which is associated to another expression does not give rise to any unexpected technical effect, considering how the claimed invention has been presented in claims 1 and 29. It is therefore our opinion that D1 can be adapted to operate in accordance with what is described in these claims without requiring any inventive skill.

Both the claimed invention and D1 do address the same problem, namely to simplify the input when selecting a preferred service, by way of providing associated lists which are presented successively to the user. To the extent that the claimed invention can be understood, it is considered obvious to the person skilled in the art that also verbs, accompanied by associated objects could be displayed as a result from an improved method, or apparatus adapted for requesting of a service. Therefore, claims 1 and 29 both fail to involve an inventive step.

As for claims 2 and 30, D1 also fails to propose that a beginning of a user input is compared, and matched to a list,

.../...

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: BOX V(III)

before alternatives, which are selected based on the matching, are being displayed to the user. This procedure provides for a more rapid user input. From D2 a user interface with improved data entry features, comprising a predictive keyboard input method, is already known. As soon as two characters have been input by a telephone user, one or more candidate words are shown on the display of the telephone (see column 6, line 21-column 7, line 9). Both D1 and D2 refer to methods for improving a user interface. It is considered obvious to a person skilled in the art to combine these both documents and thereby to come up with a method wherein words with high probability are shown on a display and wherein these words are linked to lists with associated alternatives. Also in this case the use of verbs merely define an administrative difference, rather than a technical difference. Especially since no unexpected technical effect is identified from the use of a specified verb list. Therefore, claims 2 and 30 also fail to involve an inventive step.

Since the method and apparatus described in claims 3, 4, 12, 31 and 32, respectively, are shown in D1, these claims also fail to involve an inventive step.

Claims 5-8, 15, 16, 18, 20, 23-26 and 28 only describe obvious alternative solutions to when or how to accept an input as a command. For this reason these claims also fail to involve an inventive step.

Since the first list, as well as the associated lists mentioned in D1, all are assembled according to predetermined probabilities in accordance with what is suggested in claims 9-11 (see for example paragraph [0010]-[0012]), these claims also fail to involve an inventive step.

Claim 14 only propose an obvious alternative way of indicating a chosen word. For this reason claim 14 fails to involve an inventive step.

The way in which alternatives to be shown on the display are chosen in claim 19 is already known from D1 (see for example paragraph [0044]-[[0047]; [0058];[0103])). Consequently, claim 19 also fails to involve an inventive step.

.../...

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: BOX V(IV)

Since D1 describes how alternatives may be reordered on the display of a user equipment, it is considered obvious to a person skilled in the art to adapt D1 so that a method as the one described in claims 21 and 22, as well as an apparatus such as the one described in claims 33 and 34 are achieved. Claims 21, 22, 33 and 34 therefore fail to involve an inventive step.

A method with dynamic ordering of alternatives to be chosen on the display is already known from D1. Therefore claim 27 fails to involve an inventive step.

Since the adaptive optimization described in D1 is done in the user equipment claim 35 also fails to involve an inventive step.

It would also be obvious to a person skilled in the art to choose to implement the described apparatus in a network element as an alternative, especially since functionality for a similar user interface navigation procedure which is implemented in a server is already known from D3 (see for example paragraph [0026]). Therefore, claim 36 also fails to involve an inventive step.

To sum up the subject-matter of claims 1-12, 14-16 and 18-36 is novel, but fails to involve an inventive step. The subject-matter of claims 1-12, 14-16 and 18-36 is also industrially applicable. No establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability have been formed for claims 13 and 17.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claims 1 and 29 do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. The following functional statements do not enable the skilled person to determine which technical features are necessary to perform the stated function:

No clearly defined technical features as to how the suggested storage procedure or the suggested presentation procedure is achieved can be identified neither in the claims, nor in the description. It is also not clearly defined how the selection of associations is done, and thus no clearly defined technical solution as to how the association lists are being assembled is described in any of the independent claims 1 or 29. From these claims the association lists and the construction of those lists merely seems to disclose administrative steps.

21-12-2005

Claims (amended 20/12/2005)

1. A method of requesting a service in a network that supports multiple users, characterised by

- 5 - maintaining a verb list comprising several verbs (3-2);
- maintaining an object part list comprising several object parts (3-6);
- maintaining a service list indicating several services (3-14);
- maintaining a first association list comprising several first associations (3-10), each of which associates one verb in the verb list and one object part in the object part list;
- 10 - maintaining a second association list comprising several second associations (3-18), each of which associates one service in the service list and one first association;
- 15 - displaying at least one verb from the verb list to the user;
- displaying at least one object part from the object part list to the user, which object part has an association with the verb in the first association list,
- selecting services such that each selected service has an association with the combination formed by the verb and the object part, and displaying the selected services to the user;
- 20 - in response to receiving an acceptance of a service from the user, requesting the user-accepted service via the network.

25 2. A method according to claim 1, characterised by; in response to receiving a beginning of a user input, selecting verbs from said verb list, such that the selected verbs match said beginning of the user input, and displaying the selected verbs to the user.

30 3. A method according to claim 2, characterised by; selecting object parts such that each selected object part has an association with the user-accepted verb in the first association list, and displaying the selected object parts to the user.

35 4. A method according to claim 3, characterised by; selecting services such that each selected service has an association with the combination formed by the user-accepted verb and the user-accepted object part, and displaying the selected services to the user.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised by;

selecting the object parts in response to receiving an acceptance of the verb from the user.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised by; selecting the object parts without receiving an acceptance of the verb from the
5 user.

7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterised by; selecting the services in response to receiving an acceptance of the object part from the user.

8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterised by; selecting the services are selected without receiving an acceptance of the ob-
10 ject part from the user.

9. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterised by; comprising maintaining a first probability (3-4) for the verbs (3-2) in the verb list and displaying the selected verbs in order of decreasing first probability.

10. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterised
15 by; comprising maintaining a second probability (3-12) for the first associations (3-10) and displaying the selected object parts in order of decreasing second probability of first associations that contain the selected object parts.

11. A method according to claim 10, characterised by; comprising
20 maintaining a third probability (3-20) for the second associations (3-18) and displaying the selected services in order of decreasing third probability of second associations that contain the selected services.

12. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 11, characterised
25 in that there are one or more specifiers (6-6) associated with some of the object parts (6-4).

13. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 12, characterised
by; comprising maintaining the first probability for the verbs (3-2) in the verb list from several terminals and distributing the first probability among the several terminals.

14. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 13, characterised
30 by; after displaying verbs or object parts, keeping one verb or object part highlighted according to the user selection and giving means to the user to accept the currently highlighted verb or object part.

15. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 14, characterised
35 by; in response to receiving a beginning of the user input of a verb, prior the user accepting a verb from said verb list, selecting object parts such that each

selected object part has an association with the currently highlighted verb in the first association list, and displaying the selected object parts to the user.

16. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 15, characterised by; in response to receiving an acceptance of a verb and beginning of the user input of an object part, prior the user accepting an object part, selecting object parts from said object part list, such that the selected object parts match said beginning of the user input of an object part, and selecting services such that each selected service has an association with the currently highlighted object part in the second association list, and displaying the selected services to the user.

17. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 16, characterised by; in response to the user accepting the verb and the object part, delivering the first association to a second user via the network and in case the second user forming the second association, delivering information about said second association to a mediator for adding it into maintained a second associations list in the mediator and delivering information about said service to the first user.

18. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 17, characterised by; prior to receiving a beginning of a user input displaying a verb from the verb list and an object part from the object part list such that the object part has an association with the verb in the first association list.

19. A method according to claim 18, characterised by; selecting the object part according to the usage frequency and /or the use situation and/or the user equipment and/or the preferences of the user.

20. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 19, characterised by; after the user accepting object part, forming one or more second association(s) by searching descriptions associated to services for words extracted from said object part.

21. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 20, characterised by; displaying at least one selected verb from the verb list and at least two object parts from the object part list such that at least one object part of the at least two object parts has an association with the selected verb in the first association list.

22. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 21, characterised by; forming multiple objective statements each being formed by the at least one verb and at least one object part and ordering some of the objective

statements statically and some of the objective statements dynamically.

23. A method according to claim 22, characterised by displaying only different verbs in the statically ordered part of a display.

24. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 23, characterised
5 by accepting the combination of the verb and the object part in one phase.

25. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 23, characterised by accepting the combination of the verb and the object part in two phases by first accepting the verb and then accepting the object part.

26. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 25, characterised
10 by; prior to accepting the combination of the verb and the object part displaying to the user the service that has an association with the combination formed by the verb and the object part.

27. A method according to any one of claims 22 to 26, characterised
15 by; the dynamically ordered objective statements changing in response to at least one of the following function: the relevance for the user and the relevance for the situation.

28. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 27, characterised by displaying to the user a predefined service in case the service list is empty.

29. An apparatus for requesting a service in a network that supports
20 multiple users, characterised in that the apparatus comprises

- a verb list comprising several verbs (3-2);
- an object part list comprising several object parts (3-6);
- a service list indicating several services (3-14);
- a first association list comprising several first associations (3-10), each
25 of which associates one verb in the verb list and one object part in the object part list;
- a second association list comprising several second associations (3-18), each of which associates one service in the service list and one first association;
- a routine for displaying at least one verb from the verb list to the user;
- a routine for displaying at least one object part from the object part list to the user, which object part has an association with the verb in the first association list;
- a routine for selecting services such that each selected service has an
30 association with the combination formed by the verb and the object part,
35 and displaying the selected services to the user;

- a routine for requesting the user-accepted service via the network in response to receiving an acceptance of a service from the user.

30. An apparatus according to claim 29, characterised in that the apparatus comprises a routine for selecting verbs from said verb list in response to receiving a beginning of a user input, such that the selected verbs match said beginning of the user input, and displaying the selected verbs to the user.

31. An apparatus according to claim 30, characterised in that the apparatus comprises a routine for selecting object parts such that each selected object part has an association with the user-accepted verb in the first association list, and displaying the selected object parts to the user.

32. An apparatus according to claim 31, characterised in that the apparatus comprises a routine for selecting services such that each selected service has an association with the combination formed by the user-accepted verb and the user-accepted object part, and displaying the selected services to the user.

33. An apparatus according to any one of claims 29 to 32, characterised in that the apparatus comprises a routine for displaying at least one selected verb from the verb list and at least two object parts from the object part list such that at least one object part of the at least two object parts has an association with the selected verb in the first association list.

34. An apparatus according to any one of claims 29 to 33, characterised in that the apparatus comprises a routine for forming multiple objective statements each being formed by the at least one verb and at least one object part and ordering some of the objective statements statically and some of the objective statements dynamically.

35. An apparatus according to any one of claims 29 to 34, characterised in that, the apparatus is provided in a user equipment.

36. An apparatus according to any one of claims 29 to 34, characterised in that, the apparatus is provided in a network element.

21-12-2005

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Fig. 5A

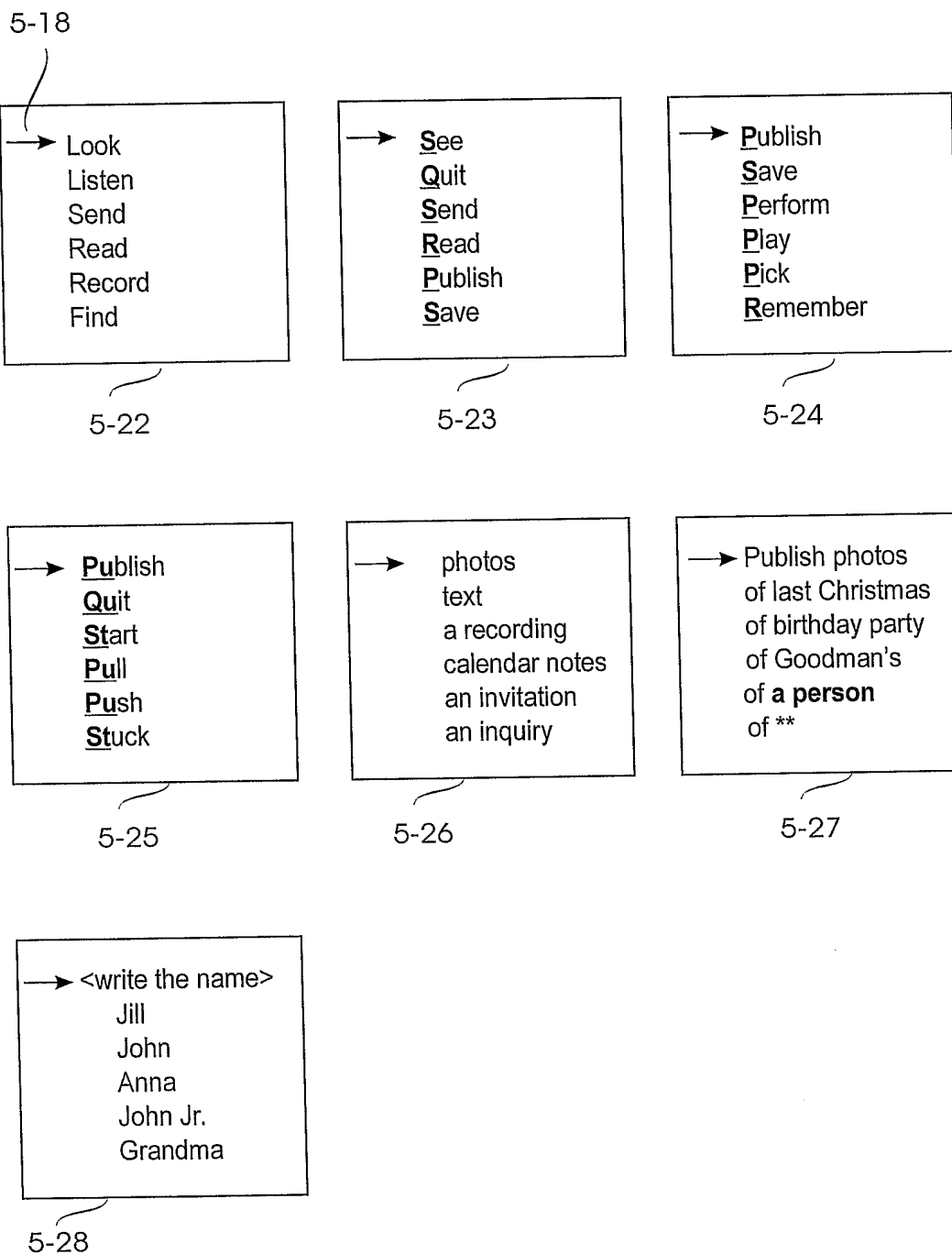


Fig. 6



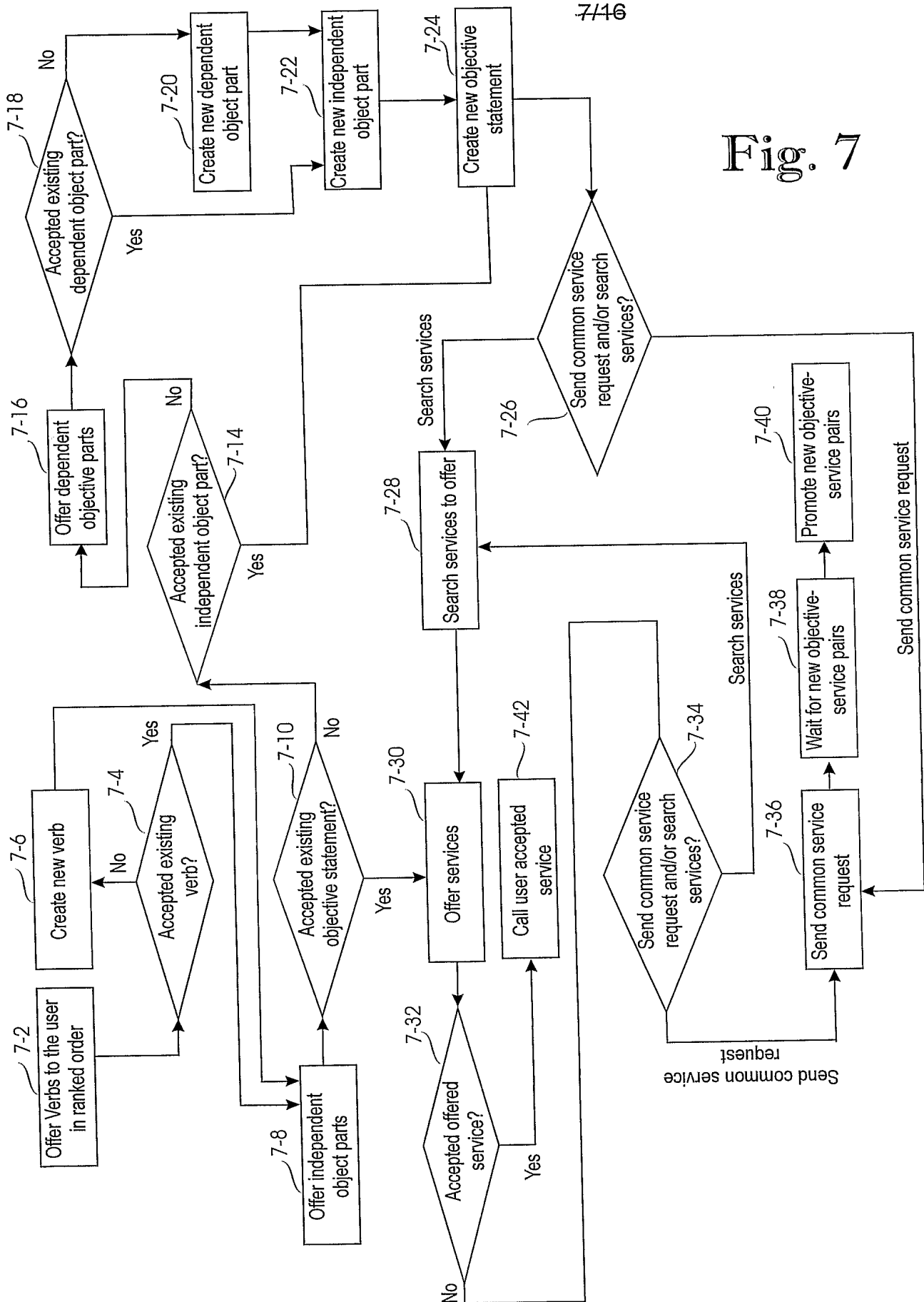


Fig. 7

Fig. 8

